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Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

Progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This report provides an overview of the progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change since the thirty-ninth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice. It describes the continued engagement of Parties, organizations, institutions, experts, communities of practice and the private sector under the Nairobi work programme, and highlights examples of the collaborative activities between Nairobi work programme partner organizations, Parties and relevant organizations that are currently being carried out. It concludes with a brief overview of the mandated next steps.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its twenty-eighth session, requested the secretariat to provide a report, for consideration at each of its sessions, starting from SBSTA 29, on progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.[1, 2]

B. Background

2. The overall objective of the Nairobi work programme is to assist all Parties, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, to improve their understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, and to make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures to respond to climate change on a sound scientific, technical and socioeconomic basis, taking into account current and future climate change and variability.[3]

3. Upon completion of the first and second phases of the Nairobi work programme,[4] the SBSTA, in line with decision 2/CP.11, paragraph 6(e), undertook, during SBSTA 33 and SBSTA 34, a review of the work programme. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by decision 17/CP.19, decided to continue the Nairobi work programme within the framework of the provisions of decision 2/CP.11, addressing the knowledge needs arising from, inter alia, the Cancun Adaptation Framework and other relevant workstreams and bodies under the Convention and the knowledge needs identified by Parties.[5] In addition, the COP established a number of significant milestones for further considering and elaborating additional activities, thus improving the effectiveness of the modalities, implementation and review of the Nairobi work programme.

4. The COP also decided to enhance the relevance of the Nairobi work programme on the basis of, inter alia:[6]

(a) Activities that build upon each other and are linked to practical issues and which engage adaptation practitioners;

(b) The development of linkages with other relevant workstreams, including the national adaptation plan process, research and systematic observation, and bodies under the Convention, including the Adaptation Committee, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group and the Technology Mechanism;

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[1] FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 18.

[2] Information on progress made between SBSTA 28 and SBSTA 39 is contained in documents FCCC/SBSTA/2008/INF.5, FCCC/SBSTA/2009/INF.3, FCCC/SBSTA/2009/INF.5, FCCC/SBSTA/2010/INF.2, FCCC/SBSTA/2010/INF.7, FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.2, FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.9, FCCC/SBSTA/2012/INF.1, FCCC/SBSTA/2012/INF.5, FCCC/SBSTA/2013/INF.1 and FCCC/SBSTA/2013/INF.6.

[3] Decision 2/CP.11, annex, paragraph 1.

[4] Summaries of the results of the implementation of the Nairobi work programme during its first and second phases are contained in documents FCCC/SBSTA/2008/12 and FCCC/SBSTA/2010/10, respectively.

[5] Decision 17/CP.19, paragraph 1.

[6] Decision 17/CP.19, paragraph 2.

(c) The development of knowledge products to improve the understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation in response to needs identified by Parties;

(d) Support for the effective dissemination of knowledge products at the regional, national and subnational levels through, inter alia, knowledge networks and national focal points, particularly in developing countries.

5. Furthermore, the COP requested the SBSTA to consider, inter alia, the following issues under the Nairobi work programme:[7]

(a) Ecosystems;

(b) Human settlements;

(c) Water resources;

(d) Health.

II. Progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme

6. This chapter provides information on progress made during the reporting period in implementing the work programme related to engaging stakeholders, catalysing action by partner organizations, and knowledge-sharing and management.

A. Engagement of partner organizations

1. Partner organizations

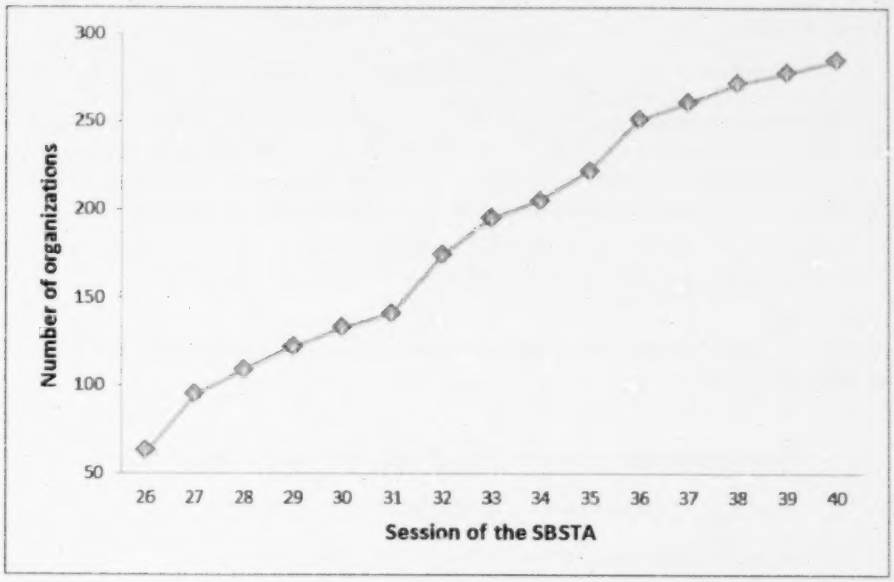
7. Parties to the Convention, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, the private sector, practitioners and individual experts have all been contributing to the implementation of the Nairobi work programme. Therefore, the work programme has engaged relevant organizations as partner organizations, which are committed to aligning their activities with the objectives of the Nairobi work programme and to carrying out initiatives, including through action pledges and collaborative actions, where appropriate, to provide information on climate risk assessment, adaptation planning and implementation.

8. Figure 1 illustrates that, during the reporting period, the number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations increased to a total of 285. During the reporting period, the following seven organizations/entities joined the Nairobi work programme as new partners: Active Remedy Ltd; the African Women's Network for Sustainable Development (Réseau Femmes Africaines pour le Développement Durable); the Centre for Environmental and Climate Research, Lund University; the Institute for Environment and Development Sustainability; the INTASAVE Partnership and CARIBSAVE; the Watershed Organisation Trust; and the Department of Marine Affairs, University of Rhode Island.

[7] Decision 17/CP.19, paragraph 5.

Figure 1

Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations over time, as at 10 April 2014

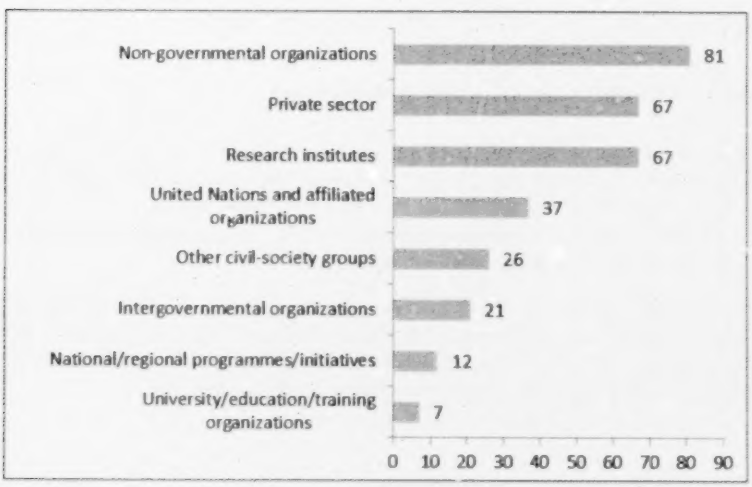


Abbreviation: SBSTA = Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice.

9. Nairobi work programme partner organizations represent a broad spectrum of expertise, experience and knowledge, and play an important role in implementing the Nairobi work programme. The work programme has been effective in catalysing targeted adaptation actions and has strengthened its capacity to enhance the provision and dissemination of information on, and knowledge of, adaptation. Figure 2 provides an overview of the Nairobi work programme partner organizations by category as at 10 April 2014.

Figure 2

Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by category, as at 10 April 2014


Non-governmental organizations 81
Private sector 67
Research institutes 67
United Nations and affiliated organizations 37
Other civil-society groups 26
Intergovernmental organizations 21
National/regional programmes/initiatives 12
University/education/training organizations 7
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90

Note: A partner organization may be profiled under more than one category.

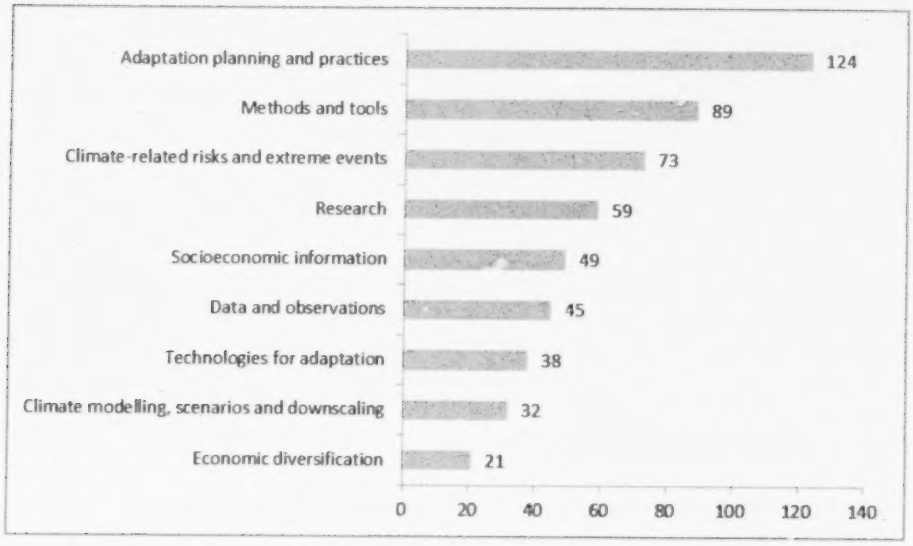
10. A further breakdown of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by regional focus, climate hazard, scope of activities and sector is presented in figures 4–7 in the annex.

2. Action Pledges

11. Action Pledges are targeted adaptation actions that partner organizations undertake in response to knowledge needs and gaps identified by the work programme. The COP, by decision 17/CP.19, encouraged Nairobi work programme partner organizations to support the effective implementation of the Nairobi work programme by reporting on the actions and outcomes associated with the fulfilment of Action Pledges and addressing Calls for Action. To date, 181 such Action Pledges have been made by partner organizations.

12. An overview of the Action Pledges made by partner organizations, as at 10 April 2014, covering all nine areas of the work programme, is provided in Figure 3.

Figure 3
Number of Action Pledges under the Nairobi work programme by area of work, as at10 April 2014



Note: Some Action Pledges may be associated with more than one work area.

B. Collaboration under the Nairobi work programme

13. The COP, by decision 17/CP.19, encouraged Parties, Nairobi work programme partner organizations and adaptation practitioners to support the effective implementation of the Nairobi work programme by increasing collaboration with regional centres and networks, in particular those in developing countries, that develop and disseminate information and knowledge at the regional and national levels.[8]

14. Consistent with the mandate referred to in paragraph 13 above, the United Nations Environment Programme, through its Global Adaptation Network, has engaged with the secretariat on developing a demand-driven knowledge framework, with a particular focus on identifying and responding to region-specific adaptation knowledge needs.

[8] Decision 17/CP.19, paragraph 8.

C. Development and dissemination of information and knowledge, and sharing of and learning from adaptation experiences

1. Meeting on the available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, needs of local and indigenous communities, and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation

15. The meeting on the available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, needs of local and indigenous communities, and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation was held on 1–4 April 2014 in Bonn, Germany. It was a joint meeting between the Adaptation Committee and the Nairobi work programme, and was organized in collaboration with relevant organizations, experts and practitioners.[9] The Governments of Canada and Switzerland provided financial support for the organization of the meeting.

16. The meeting was informed by a technical paper on the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, which was developed under the Nairobi work programme and made available to Parties prior to SBSTA 39.[10] The discussion was also informed by inputs provided by participants prior to the meeting highlighting their different experiences in the use of local, indigenous and traditional knowledge for adaptation, as well as the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation.[11]

17. The four-day meeting was divided into two parts: the first two days focused on the use of local, indigenous and traditional knowledge, and the third and fourth days focused on the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools. Supplemented with video footage and a small number of presentations on good practices and tools, the interactive sessions provided ample opportunity for the over 60 representatives of Parties, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations, community-based organizations and several indigenous groups to exchange their experiences. The participants, through in-depth and interactive discussions, provided valuable inputs to:

(a) Recommendations and guidance that the Adaptation Committee would develop for consideration by the COP, with a view to providing technical support and guidance to Parties in the use of local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for national and international adaptation planning and action;

(b) Recommendations for adaptation practitioners on the use of local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation.

18. The report on the meeting, summarizing key outcomes and recommendations, will be made available for SBSTA 40.[12]

19. The meeting concluded with the formation of a task group, whose aim is to continue working on collaborative activities and/or knowledge products to address some of the recommendations identified at the meeting related to enabling and enhancing the use of local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation.

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[9] Further information on the meeting is available at <http://unfccc.int/ 8020>.

[10] FCCC/TP/2013/11.

[11] Inputs provided by participants on the use of local, indigenous and traditional knowledge for adaptation, and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation are available at <http://unfccc.int/8154> and <http://unfccc.int/8155>.

[12] The report on the meeting is contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2014/INF.11.

2. The seventh Nairobi work programme Focal Point Forum

20. The seventh Nairobi work programme Focal Point Forum, held on 13 November 2013 during COP 19, brought together over 85 participants, representing Parties and Nairobi work programme partner organizations. The Focal Point Forum focused on enhancing the relevance and catalytic role of the evolving Nairobi work programme, including by strengthening:

(a) The provision of data, information and knowledge;

(b) Knowledge-sharing and learning;

(c) Partnerships and coordination at different scales and levels.

21. Participants considered ways and means to enhance the implementation of the work programme, including: serving as a knowledge broker between scientists, policymakers, national focal points and knowledge and information users; enhancing the catalytic role and convening power of the work programme in engaging multiple stakeholders at different scales and levels; engaging partner organizations in more dynamic processes that are in addition to the monitoring of the Action Pledges made by partner organizations; and creating a more enabling environment for strengthening the dissemination of knowledge at different levels.

3. Database of Action Pledges and partner organizations

22. The online database of partner organizations and Action Pledges facilitates both effective access to information by Parties and Nairobi work programme partner organizations and the management of that information by Nairobi work programme partner organizations.[13] The database is continuously updated, and improvements are made as needs arise and resources permit.

4. Nairobi work programme eUpdate

23. The latest issue of the eUpdate, a regular newsletter disseminated to Parties and Nairobi work programme partner organizations, was published and made available in April 2014.[14] The eUpdate highlights activities and events related to adaptation under the Convention. The next issue will be made available in July 2014.

III. Next steps

24. COP 19 agreed on a number of significant milestones for the Nairobi work programme. In line with the mandate contained in decision 17/CP.19, the SBSTA will:[15]

(a) Consider and further elaborate additional activities, including the timing of such activities, in the implementation of the Nairobi work programme and consider ways to enhance the effectiveness of the modalities of the Nairobi work programme at SBSTA 40;

(b) Take stock of progress in the implementation of the Nairobi work programme and further elaborate additional activities, including the timing of such activities, at SBSTA 44;

(c) Review the Nairobi work programme at SBSTA 48, with a view to further improving its relevance and effectiveness, and report thereon to COP 24.

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[13] Available at <http://unfccc.int/nwp>.

[14] Available at <http://unfccc.int/7565>.

[15] Decision 17/CP.19, paragraphs 4 and 13.

25. The secretariat continues its efforts to engage and collaborate with Nairobi work programme partner organizations, adaptation practitioners and experts, including regional centres and networks, in enhancing the development, dissemination and sharing of information and knowledge to better inform adaptation planning and action at the regional, national and subnational levels.

26. The SBSTA, in response to the recommendations of the Adaptation Committee, has requested several activities to be undertaken under the Nairobi work programme:

(a) Parties and Nairobi work programme partner organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 20 August 2014, information on good practices in and lessons learned from national adaptation planning;

(b) The secretariat to compile the submissions referred to in paragraph 26(a) above into an information document, to be made available by SBSTA 41;

(c) The secretariat to undertake the activities listed in annex III to the report of the Adaptation Committee,[16] upon the request of the Adaptation Committee.

27. Furthermore, the COP, by decision 17/CP.19, invited the Adaptation Committee, in accordance with its mandate and functions, to provide further recommendations for activities to be undertaken under the Nairobi work programme.[17]

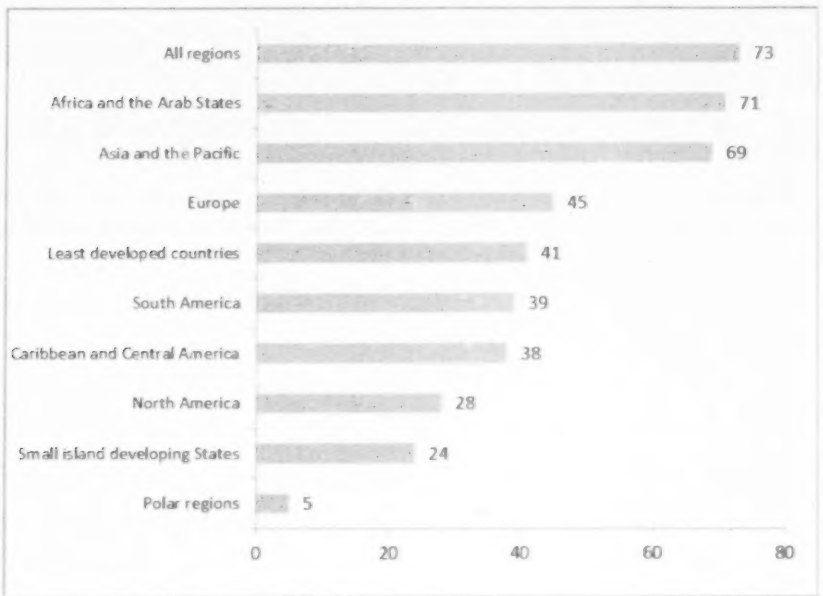
[16] FCCC/SB/2013/2.

[17] Decision 17/CP.19, paragraph 10.

Annex

Nairobi work programme partner organizations by regional focus, climate hazard, scope of activities and sector

Figure 4
Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by regional focus

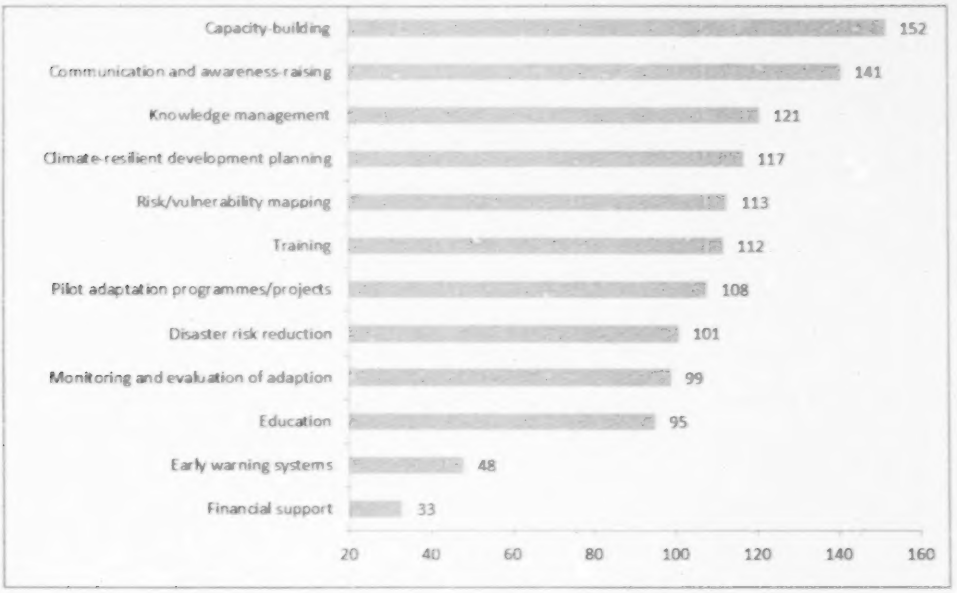


Note: A partner organization may operate in more than one region.

Figure 5
Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by climate hazard

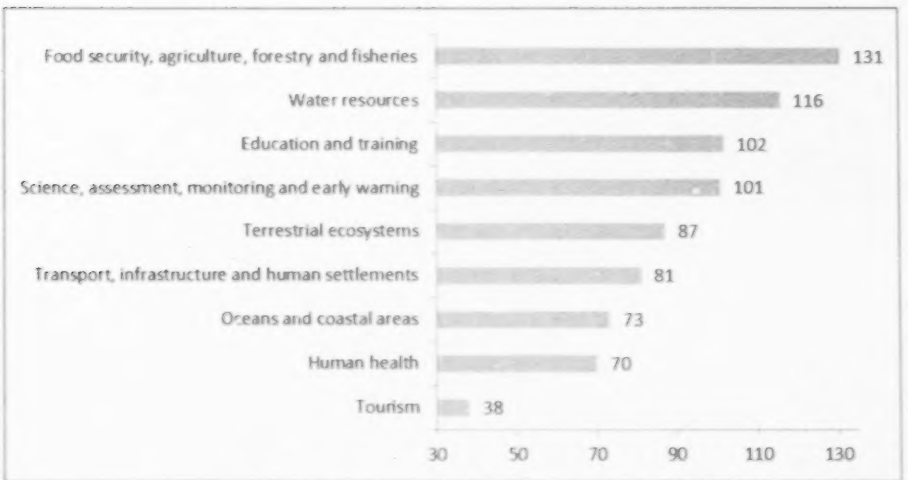
Note: A partner organization may address more than one hazard.

Figure 6
Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by scope of activities



Note: A partner organization may undertake activities falling under more than one area.

Figure 7
Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by sector



Note: A partner organization may address issues related to more than one sector.